

Adolescent Risk Research Unit

Rise, and shine.

A call to improve sampling methodology and reporting in young novice driver research

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Why do this research?

Around the world young drivers continue to be overrepresented in crashes. Interventions commonly arise from research findings, be it from an analyses of crashes, analyses of interview data, or analyses of objective measures. Therefore, it is critical that the reporting of research is methodologically rigorous to maximise intervention benefits. The current study builds upon earlier research revealing that young novice driver reporting in peer-reviewed publications is not always reliable and complete – see [Methodology and broader implications of young driver research published in Traffic Injury Prevention in the past five years](#)

What did we do?

A literature review covering the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2013, using the search terms “young driver” and “teen driver”, located 806 peer-reviewed research articles in the four main road safety journals. We examined the participant information and the study design of each of the 806 papers.

What did we find?

The age range of the participants was reported in less than three-quarters of the research articles, while only 90% of papers reported the participants’ gender. Response rates were only reported in half of the papers. Similarly, retention rates were reported in 64% only of papers in which this information is relevant. Furthermore, information regarding participant incentives or reimbursements was not noted in two-thirds of papers.

What does it mean?

A breadth of limitations in the reporting of important information regarding young novice driver participants and study design, including sampling and methodology reporting, means that it is difficult for others, including researchers, policymakers and practitioners, to evaluate the validity and generalisability of the findings reported in that paper. Therefore it is essential that researchers, journal reviewers and journal editors make efforts to ensure that all relevant study data, particularly age and licence data, is reported. This information is fundamental for the effective development, implementation, and evaluation of young driver-specific interventions.

Note: These findings informed by – [Methodology and broader implications of young driver research published in Traffic Injury Prevention in the past five years](#)